

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 are amended. Claims 1-20 are amended to correct typographical errors therein and to conform to U.S. claim format by removing references numbers that refer to the figures of the present application from the claims.

No new matter is added to the application by this Amendment. Support for the new features added to claim 1 can be found in FIGS. 1a and 1b and within the present specification, as originally filed, at, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 15-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,772 to May in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,410,866 to Klein et al. (hereinafter "Klein"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office acknowledges that May does not teach or suggest at least one switching device (see page 3 of the Office Action). The Patent Office introduces Klein

as allegedly teaching an operating device having at least one switching device. The Patent Office alleges that it would have been obvious a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide to the device as taught by May with the feature as taught by Klein in order to increase the application features or the haptic feedback device. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these allegations.

May teaches a control device having an actuator which has a rotary actuating element and an arresting element which is used to provide haptic feedback for a rotating sensation which is associated with the selected function (see the Abstract of May). Klein teaches an operating device with which functional groups, functions and/or function values can be dialed by the handle of a rotary switch being rotated, and selected by one or more input switches (see the Abstract of Klein).

Applicants submit that May and Klein, at best, disclose actuators which are rotary actuating elements that require repeated pressing of the actuators to select a desired function. Thus, the control devices of May and Klein require a two step process of dialing to a desired function and subsequently confirming the desired function. The step of dialing the desired function prior to confirming the desired function requires the attention of the operator which distracts the operator from other operating duties.

Moreover, neither May nor Klein, taken singly or in combination, teaches or suggests a control device as specifically defined in the present claims. Specifically, May and Klein, taken singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a control device with at least one actuating element which includes at least one display device comprising at least one display field corresponding to the at least one region of the at least one actuating element, wherein the at least one switching device is associated

with the at least one display field of the at least one display device as required by amended claim 1.

Because these features of independent claim 1 are not taught or suggested by May and Klein, taken singly or in combination, these references would not have rendered the features of claim 1 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

For at least these reasons, claims 1-14, 19 and 20 are patentable over May and Klein. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account
No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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